

CLASSIFICATION **CONFIDENTIAL**

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| COUNTRY | Czechoslovakia | REPORT |
| TOPIC | 1. Soviet-occupied Installations in Karlovy Vary 25X1 2. Czech Troops and Military Installations in Karlovy Vary. | |
| EVALUATION | PLACE OBTAINED | 25X1 |
| DATE OF CONTENT | | |
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| REFERENCES | | |
| PAGES | 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) | |
| REMARKS | | |
| This is UNEVALUATED Information | | 25X1 |

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1. Prior to October 1954, the Imperial Hotel in Karlovy Vary (N 51/P 69) had a Soviet management. The hotel was used, Soviet officers and in winter } all hotel activities. Soviet officers and their dependents were constantly exchanged between the hotel and the installation in Karlovy Vary. Some were accompanied by their dependents. The hotel apparently housed no Soviet military headquarters. Prior to October 1954, the same conditions could be said to have applied to the Richmond Hotel. Cure activities at the Richmond Hotel, however, were continued in winter. the former Gasbad (Plynovy) on the northern bank of the Tepla River and west of the Richmond Hotel was also requisitioned by the Soviets. No detailed information on this installation was available. 1
2. After the war, three large four-story buildings which looked like apartment houses, and several garages, were newly constructed for the Soviets in the greens around the former Schweizerhof Cafe (Svycarsky Dvur), about 250 meters northwest of the Richmond Hotel. The building which formerly housed the cafe was torn down. The Germans in Karlovy Vary called this installation a Russian village. Soviet civilians were constantly observed at the site, while single Soviet soldiers were seen occasionally. Soviet women and children were also seen in the installation. Heavy motor traffic which was constantly observed in the area of these billets, which were apparently unguarded and not surrounded by a fence. The purpose of this billeting area was unknown. Czech sentries were occasionally observed in front of former Villa Margarethe, which was located between the Richmond Hotel and the former Gasbad. This villa was allegedly used to billet high-ranking Soviet officers or Soviet functionaries. When not used for this purpose, the building was unguarded. No other Soviet-occupied installations were known in Karlovy Vary. 2

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3. Prior to mid-October 1954, former civilian apartment houses which quartered Czech troops were observed in an almost uninterrupted line on the west side of Zahradni ul., starting at the main post office and extending about as far as the former military swimming pool. After the civilians had been evacuated from these houses in 1952, the buildings were reconstructed or modernized in 1953. In the summer of 1953, Czech soldiers unloaded safes in front of some of these houses. Prior to the fall of 1954, soldiers who wore army uniforms and garrison caps were observed at the windows of these buildings at almost any hour of the day. Training activities were never observed. No information indicative of the use of these billets was available. It was unknown that a military installation was located in the building of the former labor office on the southern bank of the Ohre River. No military personnel or motor traffic was observed in the area around this building. 3
4. In 1953, a military radio station was set up in the former "Jaegerhaus" (Kav.Mysliva) excursion restaurant on the hill about 400 meters northwest of the former Pupp Hotel. After the winter 1953-1954, the restaurant was constantly occupied by Czech army personnel. Numerous thin masts which were interconnected by a tangle-like wire system were observed at the site. A cottage was located near the masts. It was rumored among the German population that another military installation was located in the area of the clearing at the Dreikreuzberg Hill (Utri krizu), east of the city. In the summer of 1953, it was observed from a distance that construction work was being done in the area of the clearing. In the spring of 1954, the area was apparently not cordoned off by military sentries. In 1954, improvements were started on the former German air-raid gallery at the rear of former House Alice on Uvalska trida. the area in front of the entrance of the gallery. Civilian labor was employed at the building site. building which included a civilian prison was located about 150 meters east of the gallery. 4
5. Prior to mid-October 1952, the office of the Military District Headquarters (krajske vojenske velitelstvi) was located in the former Hotel zur Post on the north side of Stalinova tr. The office was marked with an inscription and guarded by sentries. Prior to mid-October 1954, Czech medical officers were also frequently observed entering or leaving the building of the former military swimming pool, which was marked with military inscriptions. In the spring and fall of every year, young Czech civilians who had small bunches of on their baggear or their jackets assembled at this site. It was believed that examinations for the draft were regularly held in the area of this installation. Czech army men who carried bathing trunks and towels were frequently observed in columns of up to 60 men in front of the casino which adjoined this registration office to the southeast. Prior to October 1954, the former Pupp Hotel was used as a recreation home for soldiers and officers of the Czech Armed Forces. On official occasions, high-ranking Czech officers and functionaries allegedly also put up at this hotel. During the summer months, concerts to which civilians were also admitted were

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held on the lawn around the hotel. From local newspaper reports, it was concluded that this hotel was to be put at the disposal of patients from western countries. No preparatory measures or changes connected with this plan were observed prior to October 1954. 5

6. There was no chance to observe the billets of the troops which were located in the Dvory Borough. It was known, however, that soldiers who rode in trucks came from the direction of Dvory and proceeded to the old target ranges west of Pirkenhammer (N 51/P 69), which formerly belonged to the Karlsbad rifle clubs. Prior to 20 October 1954, two or three and not more than six SP guns with tracks and suspensions were occasionally observed passing through the city. They were escorted by a few trucks which were occupied by soldiers wearing khaki uniforms. AA guns which were towed by trucks, and light guns which were also towed by trucks and were presumably AT guns, were also frequently observed (but not at the same frequency) crossing the area of the city. All the above weapons came from or proceeded towards Dvory when they passed through the urban area. 6
1. [REDACTED] The Imperial Hotel has been previously used for the Soviet officers and their dependents during their resort. The Richmond Hotel is mentioned for the first time.
2. [REDACTED] Comment. The buildings on the greens around the former "Schweizerhof" [REDACTED] previously. It is believed that they are used [REDACTED] Russian patients. 25X1
3. [REDACTED] Comment. The observations made at Zahradni ul. indicate that elements of the headquarters of the presumed 12th Inf Div are located there. The installations have previously been unknown. 25X1
4. [REDACTED] Comment. The military radio installation tends to indicate that a signal unit of the 12th Inf Div is located in the restaurant. 25X1
5. [REDACTED] Comment. The Military District Headquarters in the former Hotel zur Post has been reported as early as February 1954. It has been reported as early as September 1952 that the Moskva Hotel (formerly Pupp Hotel) is used as a recreation home of the Czech Armed Forces. 25X1
6. [REDACTED] Comment. It is known that the barracks installations in Dvory quarter component units of the 12th Inf Div. 25X1

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